

**Press Statement** 

May 25<sup>th</sup> 2021

The Sports Authority of India has written to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) suggesting that the IOA reconstitute the committee it had formed in April 2021, to carry out the selection process of Indian Taekwondo athletes for international events, since the Taekwondo federation is derecognized by the Ministry.

The selection committee constituted by the IOA had co-opted Shri. Sanjay Saraswat, Executive Director, SAI Lucknow, as the co-chairman and two SAI coaches as members. One SAI coach was a reserve member in the committee.

In the letter addressed to IOA, SAI has said that Shri Sanjay Saraswat has expressed his inability to continue as co-chairman in view of his pressing work commitments as ED SAI.

The letter further states that it would would therefore "be prudent to reconstitute the selection committee and reduce number of SAI coaches in the selection committee."

SAI has however assured the IOA that the TEAMS Division of SAI will extend all support to IOA for development of Taekwondo till a federation is recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to manage the sporting discipline.

EOM